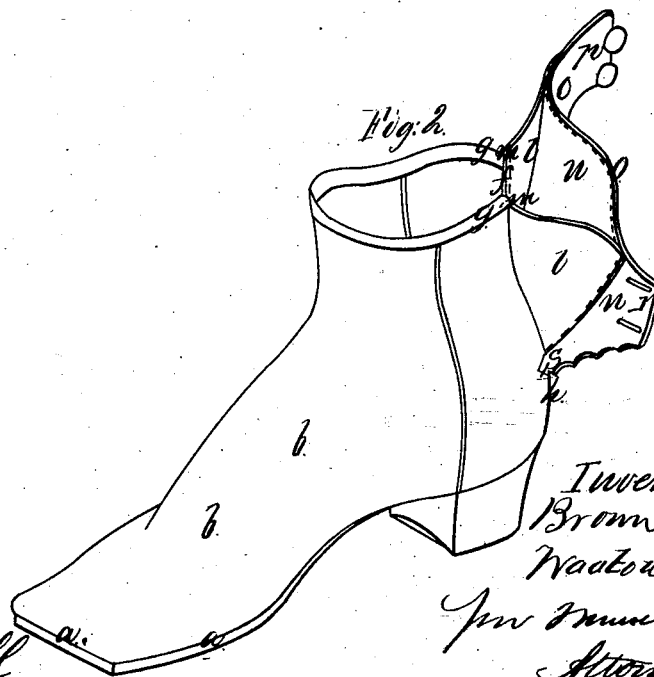
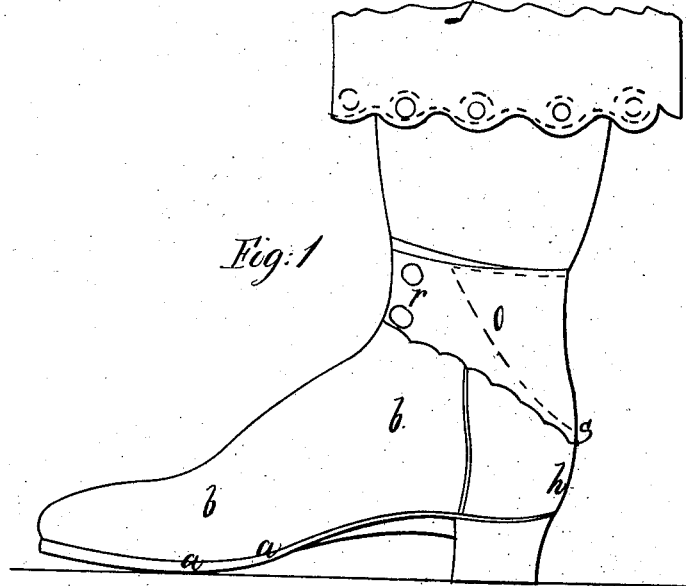


*Brown & Wooton,*

*Shoe Upper,*

*Nº 49,076,*

*Patented Aug. 1, 1865.*



*Witnesses:*  
*Mr. A. H. Crampton*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID BROWN AND WM. S. WOOTON, OF KOKOMO, INDIANA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 49,076, dated August 1, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, DAVID BROWN and W. S. WOOTON, of Kokomo, in the county of Howard, State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Boots or Shoes; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

The present invention consists in attaching to the back portion of a boot or shoe in which a vertical slit or opening has been made a folding flap or piece of sufficient size and shape that, when the boot or shoe is put on the foot, it can be folded or passed entirely around the instep, and there fastened by buckling, buttoning, or in any other proper manner, said flap being connected therewith by means of two wings or sectional pieces, each fastened by sewing, or in any other suitable way, at one edge to one side of opening or slit in the boot or shoe and at the other to the inner surface of the folding flap, and which wings, when the folding flap has been buttoned, as described, lie and are held between it and the exterior surface of the boot or shoe upper.

By forming the back portion of the boot or shoe with a folding flap or piece arranged and attached thereto, as described, the following among many advantages are secured, viz: First, it can be more easily and readily put on and taken off of the foot, as the flap, when unbuttoned, necessarily enlarges the usual opening for inserting the foot. There are no eyelet-holes or any kind of apertures communicating with the interior of the shoe, as has heretofore been the case, thus making a perfect water-proof boot or shoe, so far as the leather or other material of which the shoe is made is capable of resisting the penetration of moisture; and also the peculiar construction and arrangement of the flap acts as a support to and prevent the breaking down of the counter of the boot or shoe.

In the accompanying plate of drawings our improvement is illustrated.

Figure 1 is a side view of a boot with our improvement applied, and represented as fastened about the foot; Fig. 2, a perspective view, showing folding flap unfastened and mode of securing it to the boot or shoe.

*a a* represent the sole of a boot; *b c*, the upper-leather, attached to sole *a* by sewing or in any other proper manner; *d*, an opening at top of boot for inserting the foot; *f*, a vertical slit or opening made in back portion of upper-leather *c*, and extending from top edge *g*, of same nearly to the top of counter *h*; *l l*, two wings or pieces, made of leather or other suitable material, and having a triangular shape, each attached, by sewing or other proper means, by one of their edges to each edge *m* of the slit *f* in boot, and by another edge, also by sewing, to the inner surface, *n*, of a folding flap, *o*, having the shape represented in the drawings, and of sufficient length to extend around the instep of the foot and have its two ends, *p* and *r*, meet and button, as represented in Fig. 1, the lower end, *s*, of which flap is fastened by sewing or in any other proper manner to the upper-leather *c*, at or near the top of counter *h*.

The boot, with its back folding flap attached to the same, as above described, when placed upon the foot, is fastened thereto and securely held thereon by simply folding or passing the flap around the instep or leg over the upper, bringing its two ends together in front of the foot, which are then buttoned, buckled, or braced together in any of the ordinary modes, the wings or connecting-pieces *l l* then lying on and held between the exterior surface of upper *c* and inner surface of flap, as is evident without further description.

From the above description it is evident that not only is a secure, tight, and reliable fastening provided for the securing of the boot or shoe to the foot without the necessity of an eyelet-hole or any manner of an aperture in its upper-leather, but that the boot or shoe can be readily put on and taken off of the foot at pleasure.

We do not claim a folded gore applied to the lappet of a shoe, being aware that Samuel Babbit obtained a patent on the 18th of February, 1865, for a shoe in which the said device is employed. Our invention is superior to Babbit's in several respects: First, the increased thickness of leather is applied at the back of the shoe, where it is useful in preventing any running down of the heel, whereas if placed at the side it causes an unequal strength and stiffness, which is exceedingly liable to result in the running over of the shoe. Second, the fastening of our shoe, being in front, is not liable to become soiled in muddy weather, as is common with

side fastenings, and cannot, by being drawn tightly, produce any contraction or distortion on one side of the shoe. Third, our shoe is adapted to be much more easily put on and off.

What we claim as an improvement, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the slit *f* at the back of the boot, the double wings or gores *ll*, attached at the respective sides of the said slit, and the flap *o*, attached at the top of the counter and

the outer edges of the gores *ll*, passing completely around the boot-top and fastening above the instep in front, all as herein represented and described.

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Witnesses:

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